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Sheringham Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

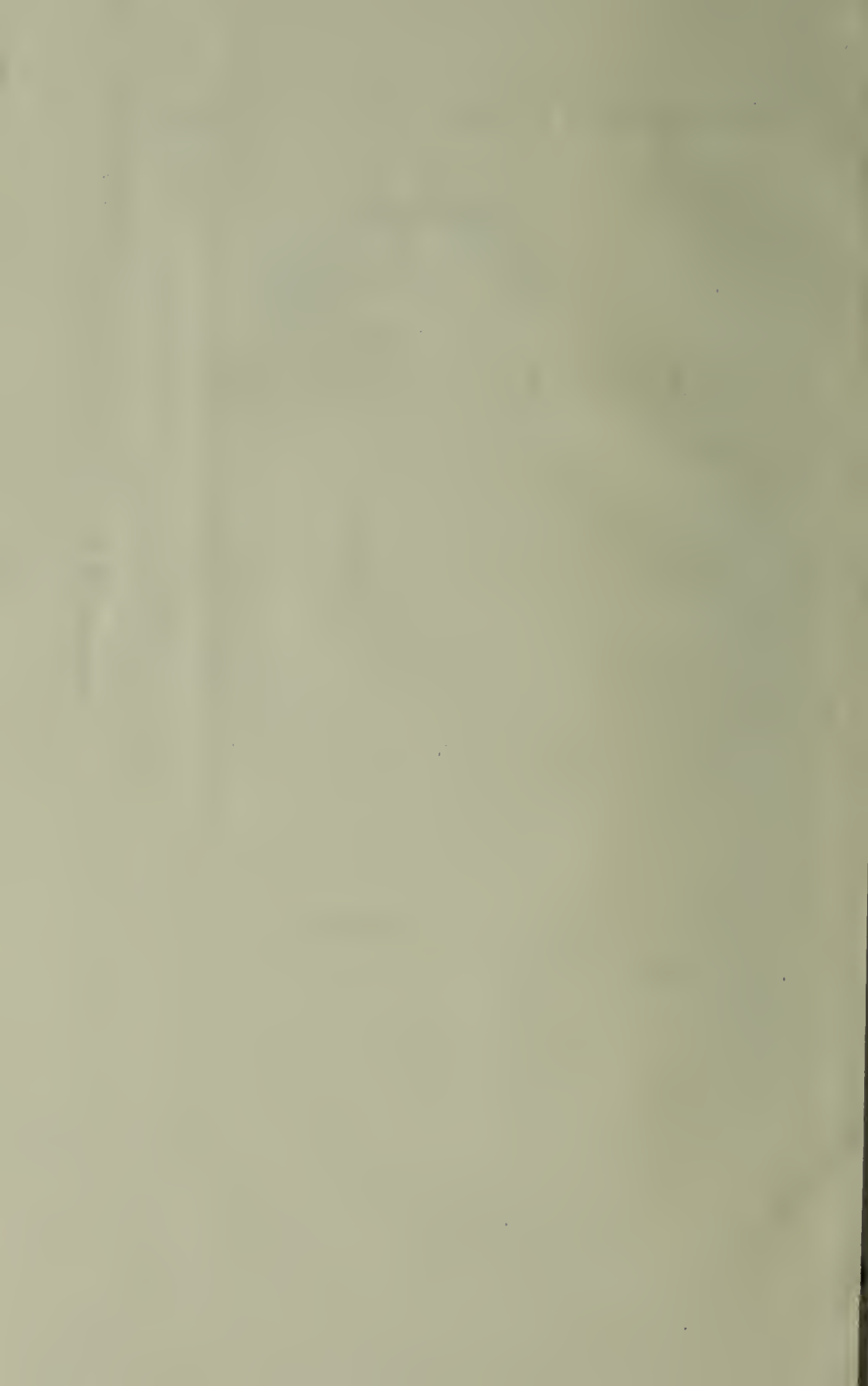
AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

FOR

'The Year 1945.

*Rounce and Wortley,
"Reliance" Works,
Holt, Norfolk.*



Sheringham Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Sheringham for the year 1945, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	929
Population (Registrar General Estimate, 1945)	...	...	...	...	3,839
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1945	...	...	...	...	1,483
Total Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£34,739
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£130

Social Conditions. The Urban District of Sheringham is situated on the North Coast of Norfolk facing North. It is bounded by the sea on the North and by a low range of wooded hills which fall generally for a mile from the South, it adjoins the Erpingham Rural District on three sides, and has on its outskirts such picturesque places as the Roman Camp, Pretty Corner and the village of Upper Sheringham.

During the summer months visitors in abundance resort to Sheringham for the bracing air, fine sands, golf links and scenery.

The population is composed of (1) fishermen, (2) those whose business it is to let rooms and tradesmen, and (3) a constantly increasing class who resort to Sheringham for its natural beauties, its fine golf links, and its bracing air.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	61	30	31
Illegitimate	...	9	4	5
Total	...	70	34	36

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 18.23.

Still Births—Legitimate	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Total	...	1	—	1

Birth Rate—1938—13.55 per 1,000 population.

1939—11.93	"	"	"
1942—16.8	"	"	"
1943—16.6	"	"	"
1944—23.78	"	"	"
1945—18.23	"	"	"

England & Wales 1945—11.4 " " "

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:

From Sepsis	...	...	Nil
From other causes	...	...	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 100.00

Number of deaths under one year of age:

Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.
3	4	7

Death Rate, England ... 46.00

Deaths.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	65	27	38

Deaths Classified by Cause and Sex:

Cause of Death.	...	Males.	Females	Total.
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis	...	2	—	2
Cancer	...	4	7	11
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	1	4	5
Heart Disease	...	8	6	14
Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	3	4	7
Bronchitis	...	1	4	5
Pneumonia	...	1	2	3
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	—	1	1
Other digestive diseases	...	1	—	1
Nephritis	...	5	—	5
Congenital malformations, births injuries or infantile diseases	...	—	1	1
Suicide	...	—	1	1
Other violent causes	...	1	2	3
All other causes	...	—	5	5
Totals	...	27	38	65

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. B. C. LAWSON,
M.B., Ch.B. (Aberdeen). (Part-time).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

Mr. J. A. THOMPSON,
CERT. S.I.B., M.R.SAN.I. (Whole-time).

(Mr. Thompson resigned his appointment in February, 1945).

Mr. R. H. SERSHALL,
CERT. S.I.B., A.M.INST.S.E., M.R.SAN.I., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Food
Inspector. (Whole-time).

(Mr. Sershall commenced his duties on the 27th of August, 1945, the Council being without a Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor from February to this date).

2. **Nursing in the Home.**—There are two private nursing homes in the town which are registered by the Norfolk County Council. There is no District Nursing Association, but a Queen's District Nurse is provided by the Sheringham Social Service League. Two Midwives practice in the area, but no Midwife is supplied or subsidised by the Council.

3. **Hospitals.**—(a) The District is served by :

1. The Cromer and District Hospital.
2. The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.
3. The Jenny Lind Hospital for Children.

The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at Norwich has all the usual special departments, including dental, opthalmic and massage. The Cromer and District Hospital has an X-ray apparatus.

(b) **Infectious Disease.** The North East Norfolk Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital is situate at Roughton, the constituent authorities of this Board being the Erpingham Rural, North Walsingham, Sheringham, and Cromer Urban District Councils. This Hospital contains two Pavilions of eight beds each, an Administrative Block, and a Cottage for the Housekeeper and Careaker.

(c) Smallpox. In the event of a case of Smallpox arising, the North East Norfolk Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital situate on the outskirts of Cromer is provided for this purpose and would be used for the isolation of patients suffering from this disease.

(d) Ambulance Facilities. An arrangement is made with the Cromer Urban District Council for the use of their infectious diseases motor Ambulance in removing cases of infectious disease from Sheringham to the Isolation Hospital.

The Cromer Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade provide a motor Ambulance which is used for the transport of non-infectious cases to Hospital.

(e) Clinics and Treatment Centres. A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre organised by the Norfolk County Council does exceedingly good work in this department.

(f) Tuberculosis. A Tuberculosis Clinic is provided by the Norfolk County Council at the Cromer and District Hospital where the County Tuberculosis Officer attends at specified times.

(g) Venereal Diseases. Under the Norfolk County Council Scheme facilities exist for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

(h) Laboratory Facilities. The Norfolk County Council has made arrangements for sputum, swabs, milk and water, etc., samples to be examined and reported upon by the Medical Research Council's Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Norwich.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. **Water.**—The Sheringham Gas and Water Company serve water to all the properties within the Urban District by a piped supply. The collecting ground, pumping station and reservoirs are situated in the Sheringham Woods, a situation which is isolated and enclosed approximately half-a-mile South of the town.

The water is derived:

- (a) From springs situated within the collecting grounds, and stored in reservoirs.
- (b) From two deep wells sunk in chalk—300 feet deep approximately. The water is pumped into a reservoir at a higher level to supply by gravitation the high-lying parts of the town.
- (i.) (a) **Quality of Water.**—Regular monthly samples of the Company's Water as supplied to the Sheringham consumers have been taken by the Council's Sanitary Inspector and submitted for bacteriological examination, the result of which has proved the water to be of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.
- (b) **Quantity of Water Supply.**—The quantity of water supplied in the Urban District is sufficient for all purposes during dry weather. The quantity of water obtained from the springs naturally varies a little during the summer and dry weather, but the level of the water in the wells varies little however much it is pumped and has never shown signs of failing.
- (ii.) One bacteriological examination of the raw water and twenty-five bacteriological examinations of the treated water going into the supply were made during the period under review, all of which proved to be of a very high standard of purity. No chemical analysis was made of the water during the period.
- (iii.) The water supplied within the Urban District is not liable to plumbo-solvent action, as the p.H. Reaction of the water is neutral or on the alkaline side of neutrality. All the water service pipes are laid in galvanised wrought iron.
- (iv.) No action has been found necessary in respect of any form of contamination of the water supply.
- (v.) (a) Number of dwelling-houses supplied direct from public water mains ... 1,615
- Number of population supplied from public water mains ... 4,100
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses supplied by means of stand-pipes ... 65
- Number of population supplied by means of stand-pipes ... 200

2. **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The Urban District is sewered throughout with a system which needs much improvement as it is not capable of dealing with an excessive and sudden rainfall. The outfall is well below ordinary low water mark in the North Sea. A firm of Consulting Engineers have been asked by the Council to prepare a Scheme for the improvement of the sewerage system.
3. **Rivers and Streams.**—Only one stream runs through the Urban District and it has not been necessary to take any action during the period to check pollution.
4. (a) **Closet Accommodation.**—All houses in the Urban District are fitted with water closets of a modern type. The sewerage system is flushed twice a week in the Summer months, and once a week in the Winter months. The dead-ends of the sewers are flushed by the use of a water cart in addition.

There are no Pail Closets or Midden Privies in the Urban District.

- (b) **Public Cleansing.**—Dust-bins are emptied once weekly by the Council's refuse collection vehicles. Twice weekly refuse collection is made during the Summer months from boarding houses and hotels. House refuse is disposed of by the method of controlled tipping on a site off the Cromer Road on the outskirts of the District. This method of disposal of house refuse has proved entirely satisfactory in that it is effective, inexpensive, and free from rat or fly infestations.
- (c) **Schools.**—The Schools are of a modern type, the water supply and sanitary conditions being quite satisfactory. In case of notifiable infectious diseases, the schools are at once visited by the Medical Officer of Health, the scholars inspected, and endeavour made to exclude infective children.
- (d) **Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-Laws.**
—There is no Common Lodging House or Offensive Trade in the Urban District.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

- (a) **Inspections and Visits.**—The following inspections and visits have been carried out during the period :
- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Inspections for housing defects and revisits | ... | 144 |
| Sanitary routine inspections and revisits | ... | 59 |
| Inspections of slaughter-houses and foodstuffs | | 38 |
| " " food premises | ... | 37 |
| " " dairies | ... | 46 |
| " " factories and bakehouses | ... | 27 |
| Visits in connection with milk sampling | ... | 63 |
| " " " water sampling | ... | 6 |
| " " " infectious disease | ... | — |
| Number of rooms disinfected | ... | 6 |
| Inspection of dirty premises and revisits | ... | 6 |
| Drainage inspections and revisits | ... | 29 |
| Drain tests | ... | 3 |
| Inspections and revisits in connection with rat destruction | ... | 78 |
| Inspections and revisits in connection with Council properties | ... | 27 |
| Inspections and visits in connection with Requisitioned properties and the housing of persons inadequately housed | ... | 117 |
| Other miscellaneous visits | ... | 73 |
- (b) **Action taken in consequence of inspections :**
- | | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Informal notices served | ... | 38 |
| Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936 | ... | Nil |
- (c) **Result of action taken in consequence of notices :**
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Defects remedied by informal notices | ... | 35 |
| Defects remedied by Statutory notices | ... | Nil |
- (d) **Summary of work carried out as a result of informal and formal action :**
- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| Defective drains renewed | ... | 7 |
| Drains unblocked and cleansed | ... | 9 |
| Flushing apparatus provided to water closets | ... | 1 |
| " " repaired | ... | 3 |
| Defective sink waste pipes | ... | 2 |
| " water closet pedestals | ... | 3 |
| Premises without proper sanitary accommodation | | 3 |
| Defective drainage ventilation shafts | ... | 2 |
| " " inspection chambers | ... | 1 |
| " " " chamber covers | ... | 1 |
| Dust bins provided or renewed | ... | 5 |

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	19
Gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7
Chimney pots renewed	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or renewed	..	...	...	8
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired or rebuilt	..	...	...	9
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	6
Damp walls treated	...	...	...	5
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	28
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	17
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	13
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Staircase repairs	...	...	...	5
Sanitary sinks provided	..	...	...	2
Rooms insufficiently lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	1
„ without secondary ventilation	...	...	...	1
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	...	2
Defective water service pipes	...	...	...	2

(e) **Shops.**—No action under this heading has been found necessary.

(f) **Camping Sites.**—There are no camping sites in the Urban District.

(g) **Smoke Abatement.**—No action under this heading has been found necessary.

(h) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the Urban District.

(i.) **Eradication of Bed-Bugs.**—No action under this heading has been found necessary.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are no milk producers or cow-keepers within the Urban District.

Number of retail purveyors	...	...	8
Number of dealers' licences in "T.T." Milk	...	...	1
Number of dealers' licences in Pasteurised Milk	Nil	...	...

Inspections and improvements carried out by informal action :

Floors of dairies renewed	..	...	...	3
Ceiling repairs	...	...	...	1
Drainage improved	...	...	...	2
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	1

Samples of undesignated milk were taken for examination by the Plate Count and Coliform tests, the result of which is as follows :

Number of samples found to be satisfactory ...	35
" " " " unsatisfactory	15
	—
Total number of samples taken ...	50
	—

- (b) **Inspection of Meat and other Foods.**—There are eight butcher's shops within the Urban District.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

Nine pigs belonging to "self suppliers" have been slaughtered and inspected within this area.

The undermentioned foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Beef ...	2½ cwts.
Tinned Beef ...	80 lbs.
Pressed Beef ...	4 lbs.
Bacon ...	2 lbs.
Fish ...	3 cwts.
Tinned Fish ...	9 lbs.
Tinned Milk ...	43 lbs.
Split Peas ...	56 lbs.
Tinned Peas and Beans ...	72 lbs.
Pickles ...	9 ozs.

Prepared food premises, restaurant kitchens, bakehouses and sausage making rooms, etc., are inspected regularly.

- (c) **Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—The appropriate Authority under this heading is the Norfolk County Council.
- (d) **Nutrition.**—No special work in the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been considered necessary.
- (e) **Shellfish.**—No shell-fish are gathered within the area of the Urban District.

7. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

- (a) There has been no outstanding epidemic of infectious disease during the year. The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type. Antitoxin is used promptly in all suspected cases of Diphtheria and is available at the Council Offices at all times of the day or night.

Measles was prevalent during the year, the epidemic was benign in character and did not assume major proportions.

School notifications of suspected infectious disease or of contacts are regularly received.

The following tables give the cases notified :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING 1945.

Infectious Diseases	CASES NOTIFIED													Adm't'd to Hospital	Deaths.
	U'dr 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over	At all ages		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	—	2	2	4	4	16	4	1	4	—	—	—	37	—	—
Totals...		2	2	5	4	16	4	3	4	—	—	—	40	1	—

- (b) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**— The immunisation against Diphtheria of children in this area continues to be satisfactory, the last ascertainable figures for the year show the number of children immunised to be as follows :—

Number of children who completed full course of immunisation in the area during the year, 1945 :

Age 5 years		
Age under 5 years.	and over but under 15 years.	Total.
62	6	68

- (c) **Prevention of Blindness.**—No action has been found necessary for the prevention or treatment of blindness,

- (d) **Tuberculosis.**—No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

8. REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

- (a) Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
FACTORIES with mechanical power	19	3	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	8	—	—
Other premises under the Act	—	—	—
Total	27	3	—

(b) Defects found :

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	insufficient ...	3	3	—
	unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	not separate sexes	3	3	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	6	—	—

D. B. C. LAWSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.)

Medical Officer of Health.